

Preventing Elder Abuse in Our Community

Elder Abuse is **preventable** – and everyone has a role to play.

Here are 5 things EVERYONE can do to prevent elder abuse:



1) Listen to older people and caregivers to understand their challenges and provide support



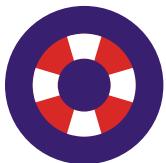
2) Educate one another about the signs of abuse and how to get help



3) Report suspected abuse or neglect as soon as possible



4) Build a community that fosters social connections and supports



5) Reach out to professional services for support where available

This brochure was created in conjunction with:



**National Association
of Area Agencies
on Aging**
n4a.org



**National Center
on Elder Abuse**
855-500-3537
ncea.acl.gov

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**Keck School of
Medicine of USC**

Building Community Supports to Prevent Elder Abuse



What is Elder Abuse?

Elder Abuse, the mistreatment or harming of an older person, is an injustice that we all need to prevent and address.

Elder Abuse can occur in both community and institutional settings and can take many forms, including:



Physical



Emotional/Psychological



Sexual



Neglect



Financial

Multiple forms of abuse can occur at the same or different times.

What Causes Elder Abuse?

Elder Abuse can occur when strong social supports are not in place to keep us connected as we age. While anyone is potentially at risk of abuse, some factors can increase one's risk of experiencing abuse:

- social isolation
- lack of access to support services and community resources
- physical, mental, or emotional needs in carrying out daily activities

Signs of Elder Abuse

Physical Signs

- Broken bones, bruises, and welts
- Cuts, sores, or burns
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- Sexually transmitted diseases without clear explanation
- Unsanitary living conditions and poor hygiene
- Unusual weight loss or dehydration
- Unattended medical needs

Emotional/Behavioral Signs

- Unusual changes in behavior or sleep
- Fear or anxiety
- Isolation from friends and family
- Withdrawal from normal activities
- Sadness

Financial Signs

- Unusual changes in a bank account or money management services
- Unusual or sudden changes in a will or other financial documents
- Fraudulent signatures on financial documents
- Unpaid bills

Report suspicions of abuse or neglect as soon as possible!

Reporting Abuse

Making a report in instances of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation is the right thing to do, and it's easy.

Programs such as Adult Protective Services (APS) and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman are here to help.

Report suspected abuse or neglect in the community setting:

Report suspected abuse or neglect in long-term care facilities:

Abuse reports may also be made to the local law enforcement agency:

*For serious and immediate emergencies, **CALL 9-1-1***